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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/198,779	11/24/1998	STEFAN A. BLEDIG	04983.0002US	2937

28381 7590 08/27/2002

ARNOLD & PORTER  
IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT; RM 1126(b)  
555 12TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1206

EXAMINER

ZHOU, SHUBO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/198,779

Applicant(s)

BLEDIG ET AL.

Examiner

Shubo "Joe" Zhou

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's amendment and request for reconsideration in Paper #18, filed on 6/13/02, is acknowledged and the amendments entered.

Currently, claims 1 and 13 are pending and under examination.

Applicant's arguments in response to the previous Office Action of 3/13/02 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from the previous Office action herein are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated from the previous Office action(s) or newly added, and constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

### ***Claim Rejections-35 USC § 101 and § 112***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The following is a quotation of the **first** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

**Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific asserted utility or a well established utility.**

This rejection is reiterated from the previous Office action and maintained for reasons of record.

Applicant's argument detailed on pages 4-7 is on the ground that the specification asserts at least one practical or real world utility for the invention because the nucleic acid encodes an enzyme. This is not deemed persuasive because the claim is not drawn to a nucleic acid encoding an enzyme. Rather, claim 13 is drawn to a nucleic acid essentially consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. SEQ ID NO:1 is a sequence of 235 nucleotides which is 92% homologous to another nucleic acid which is a putative enzyme. Thus, the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 encodes only a fragment of a corresponding protein. Said fragment has no demonstrated utility of the full length protein. Applicants show that the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is homologous to an Arabidopsis nucleic acid fragment encoding a fragment of a protein. However, the Arabidopsis protein has no demonstrated utility either. Thus, further research is needed to determine whether the claimed fragment does indeed encode an enzyme with activity. Therefore, there is no substantial asserted utility for the claimed invention in claim 13.

**Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.**

This rejection is reiterated from previous Office action and maintained for reasons of record. Since applicant's arguments for the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 are not deemed persuasive, the arguments in response to this rejection are deemed non-persuasive for the same reasons as set forth above.

**Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.**

This rejection is reiterated from the previous Office action and maintained for reasons of record.

Applicant's argument detailed on pages 10-12 is on the ground that the sequence of SEQ ID NO meets the written description requirement and so does the claimed invention. This is not deemed persuasive because the claimed invention in claim 1 is not just the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. Rather, claim 1 is amended to be drawn to nucleic acids/polynucleotides comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, which encodes a full length enzyme. SEQ ID NO:1 is not an full length open reading frame. Thus it does not have the structure of the DNA encoding the full length enzyme. Therefore, applicants were not in possession of the nucleic acid encoding the full length enzyme.

Also, as set forth in the previous Office action, given the broad scope of the claims due to the use of the open language "comprising", they are drawn to a genus: any nucleic acid that minimally contains the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, including any full length genes, cDNA, any fusion constructs, etc. There is substantial variability among the species of polynucleotides or nucleic acids encompassed within the scope of the claims because the claimed SEQ ID NOs are only fragments of these full-length genes, fusion constructs, etc. Since the claimed genus encompasses species yet to be

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discovered, e.g. DNA constructs that encode fusion proteins, etc., the mere disclosure in the specification of a species: sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 that is only a fragment of a gene, does not provide an adequate description of the claimed genus. In view of the level of knowledge and skill in the art, one skilled in the art would not recognize from the disclosure that the applicant was in possession of the genus of DNAs or RNAs encompassed in the claims which comprise the sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, such as the full length gene.

### ***Conclusion***

No claim is allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to:

Shubo "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 605-1158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Patent Analyst Tina Plunkett whose telephone number is 703-305-3524, or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

S. "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D.



Patent Examiner

MICHAEL BORIN, PH.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

